Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of voice-to-text reduction for real-time messaging, comprising the steps of:

receiving a speech input at a calling party;

transcribing the speech input to a text message;

converting the text message to an alternative text message based upon at least one of a calling party profile and a called party profile;

performing data compression to compress the alternative text message prior to transmitting the text message as a data stream defining a text stream;

transmitting the ~~text message as a~~ text stream to a called party;

receiving a text message from the called party as a text stream; and

rendering the text stream at the called party and the calling party substantially in real-time.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of sending a voice signature of the calling party to the called party.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of maintaining a voice signature repository of the calling party for access by a called party of a voice signature of the calling party when receiving a call from the calling party.

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4.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of rendering comprises the step of converting the text message at the called party to a speech output by using text-to-speech conversion.

5.   (Original)   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of rendering comprises the step of converting the text message at the called party to a speech output by using text-to-speech conversion in conjunction with the voice signature of the calling party.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of translating the text message to another language to provide a translated text message.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 6, wherein the step of transmitting comprises the step of transmitting the translated text message.

8.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 6, wherein the step of translating the text message occurs in ~~at least one location selected among the calling party, the called party, and~~ a server on a network coupled between the calling party and the called party.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of rendering comprises the step of converting the text message at the called party to a speech output by using text-to-speech synthesis in conjunction with the voice signature of the calling party.

10.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of rendering comprises the step of displaying the text message in at least one location selected among the called party and the calling party.

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11.   (Currently Amended)   A system for voice-to-text reduction for real-time messaging, comprising:

      a microphone for receiving a calling party's speech input;

      a text-to-speech converter for converting the calling party's speech input to a text message;

      <u>a voice portal for converting the text message to an alternative text message based upon at least one of a calling party profile and a called party profile;</u>

      <u>a data compression module for compressing the text message prior to transmitting the text message as a data stream defining a text stream;</u>

      a transmitter for transmitting the ~~text message as a~~ text stream to a called party;

      a receiver for receiving another text message from the called party; and

      a rendering device for rendering text messages substantially in real-time.

12.   (Original)   The system of claim 11, wherein the system further comprises a translator for translating the text message into another language.

13.   (Original)   The system of claim 11, wherein the system further comprises a text-to speech synthesizer and the rendering device comprises a speaker for providing an audible output of the received text message from the called party.

14.   (Original)   The system of claim 13, wherein the text-to-speech synthesizer uses a voice signature of the called party in producing the audible output.

15.   (Original)   The system of claim 11, wherein the rendering device comprises a display for displaying at least one among the text message from the calling party and the text message from the called party.

16.   (Original)   The system of claim 11, wherein the text streams are received and transmitted over an instant messaging/chat system.

17.   (Original)   The system of claim 11, wherein the text streams are received and transmitted over a messaging system using data transmission protocols.

18.   (Original)   The system of claim 11, wherein the system further comprises a voice profile for converting text messages into alternate text messages as defined by a user such as the calling party or called party.

19.   (Currently Amended)   A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

      receiving a speech input at a calling party;

      transcribing the speech input to a text message;

      converting the text message to an alternative text message based upon at least one of a calling party profile and a called party profile;

      performing data compression to compress the text message prior to transmitting the text message as a data stream defining a text stream;

      transmitting the ~~text message as a~~ text stream to a called party;

      receiving a text message from the called party as a text stream; and

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rendering the text stream at the called party and the calling party substantially in real-time.

20.   (Original)   The machine-readable storage of claim 19, wherein the machine-readable storage is further programmed to, in the step of rendering, to convert the text message at the called party to a speech output by using text-to-speech conversion in conjunction with a voice signature of the calling party.

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